



ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP of Philadelphia

Together we can end the cycle of violence

Consent Form

Contact Information of the Intra-Familial Homicide (IFH) Research Team

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Purpose of the Study

To better understand the experiences of people who have had a family member killed by another family member in order to improve resources, services, and systemic responses for future families who will experience this type of complicated loss.

General Procedure

Adults (ages 18 and older) identifying as having at least one family member killed by another family member are asked to participate in an interview and a written survey. The interview and survey will last between one and two hours at a time and place that is convenient for you. During the interview, the research team will ask you questions about:

1. Ways that this homicide has impacted you and your family;
2. Your experiences getting the services you needed in the aftermath of the homicide; and
3. Your experiences interacting with a variety of agencies or systems that get involved after a murder occurs, including the medical examiner's office, the justice system, the homicide unit, victim services agencies, grief and counseling support, and the media.

These interviews will be audio taped and then transcribed in order to identify themes and patterns across participants' experiences. To compensate you for your time and expertise shared



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during these interviews, you will receive a \$25 Visa gift card upon completion of the interview. The interviewer may then offer voluntary connections to resources in your community, as desired and appropriate. You will also be asked whether you would like to be communicated with regarding the progress of the research and whether you would like to be provided with materials developed by the research team.

Confidentiality

Participation in this study is completely confidential and a variety of steps will be taken to protect and maintain your confidentiality and anonymity. To help ensure confidentiality, participants will be asked not to use surnames in the interview. Should a participant use a surname during the verbal interview, written transcriptions of the interview will not include the surname, but rather denote the presence of the surname with “XXXSurname” or “YYYSurname.” Any quotations or excerpts of interviews to be used in publications or presentations will be anonymized and any possibly identifying details will be removed. All physical documents, including consent forms, will be stored in a locked cabinet and separate from the audio recordings and transcriptions. Interviews will be conducted individually.

Interviews will be audio recorded using a recording device that is the property of the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) and will be stored in a locked file cabinet that only the IFH team will have access to. Audio recorded interviews will be sent to a third party transcription service that uses an encrypted platform to prevent unauthorized access, and uses professional transcriptionists who sign a strict non-disclosure agreement to ensure privacy and confidentiality. Physical copies of de-identified interviews may be kept in a locked file cabinet and electronic copies may be maintained on password protected computers owned by the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia. Audio recordings will be destroyed after no more than three years and transcribed interviews will be destroyed after no more than five years.

There are three exceptions to the rule of confidentiality in which the research team would be obligated to share information with appropriate authorities:

1. If you indicate that you may be at risk of seriously hurting yourself or someone else;
2. If you disclose any information that leads the interviewer to suspect that harm is being done, or will be done, to a child or an elder adult; or
3. If you are involved in a court action in which the judge orders production of any or all data collected related to you during this study.



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Benefits of the Study

There is currently very little research on the experiences of survivors or co-victims of intra-familial homicide. There is also a trend of increasing homicides in Philadelphia, with a decade-high of 351 in 2018 and another increase anticipated in 2019. Survivors informally report many challenges accessing the support and services they need as well as re-traumatization by several agencies. By participating, you would be providing testimony about your experiences that may include a variety of benefits for you and the greater community.

Benefits for Individual Participants:

1. You will be compensated with a \$25 gift card for one to two hours of sharing your time and lived experiences.
2. You will have the opportunity to share your unique experiences in a validating and nonjudgmental space.
3. You will receive a list of resources and support service agencies in Philadelphia, as well as coordination of additional support and care to agencies as desired.
4. You will be part of a collective effort to advocate for system reform and enhance supports for families of murder victims and families that experience intra-familial homicide.

Benefits for the Greater Community:

1. To develop **resource guides specifically for families of homicide victims in Philadelphia**, with the critical information and resources they need.
2. To inform **policies and practices of agencies** that are critical responders to homicides and intra-familial homicides (homicide department, medical examiner's office, district attorney's office, victim service providers, etc.) through collaboration with IFH staff, creation of resource guides, and trainings for each of these agencies that **improve service delivery and coordination**.
3. Data gathered in this research may be used to **publish lessons learned and best practices**.
4. Resource guides and documents developed from this research will become **available for survivors and professionals to use nationally** on the National Center for Victims of Crime website (<https://victimsofcrime.org/>).



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Risks/Discomforts to Participants

Before the interview begins, participants will be assessed for active suicidal or homicidal ideation and will be connected with appropriate crisis resources if they report significant distress.

It is also possible that responding to questions during this interview may be upsetting and painful for survivors at any stage of the grief process. Sometimes there may be a delayed effect and you may feel capable of answering questions during the interview but experience distress in the days or weeks following.

For these reasons, the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) is offering free check-in calls or in-person visits with trained therapists in the weeks following the interview. AVP can also offer free long-term therapy services but cannot guarantee immediate connection to a therapist. Participants interested in long-term therapy can be immediately added to the waitlist or connected to other counseling and grief support services in Philadelphia.

Please review the possible risks and discomforts described above as you consider whether you would like to participate in the interview at this time.

Disclaimer/Withdrawal:

Participation in this study is completely voluntary and you may withdraw your consent to participate at any point. The above listed benefits, including time to check in with a therapist, connections with other community-based resources, and compensation for your time will not be affected by the decision to withdraw.

If you would like to withdraw from participation without consequence, please let the interviewer know or contact the IFH director using her contact information listed above.

Liability:

Follow-up and check-in phone calls with IFH team staff or an AVP therapist, connections with desired agency partners, and identification of additional services will be offered to all participants as part of a debrief after the interview concludes. Participants will also receive resource cards from Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disabilities Services with contact information for a variety of critical services, including Philadelphia's



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mental health crisis line and resources for assistance with domestic violence, substance use challenges, and homelessness outreach.

IFH team members will follow up with participants using the mode of communication requested during the debrief process. In the event that attempts to contact participants are unsuccessful, the IFH team's responsibility to follow up are satisfied. Participants will have the ability to reach back out, as the IFH team is part of AVP and AVP provides ongoing support services for survivors of homicide.

Participants' Rights:

I understand that if I desire further information regarding my rights as a research subject, I may contact the IRB Chair, Dr. Ken Soprano, by phone 215-248-7038 or via email sopranok@chc.edu

After reading the above information carefully and understanding the information contained in it, I attest that I am 18 or older, I volunteer to participate in this research study, my data may be used in the following ways:

- Audio recorded interviews for transcription and identification of themes and patterns
- Use of de-identified quotations from interviews for the development of resource guides, materials, professional presentations, and publications

Print Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____

Signature of Witness: _____ **Date:** _____

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